GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1696
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
MINIMUM WAGES FOR MAIDS/ NURSES IN OVERSEAS COUNTRIES
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge demand in the overseas countries for Indian housemaids and home nurses;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of housemaids and home nurses presently working, country-wise; (

(c) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with the foreign countries, especially with the Gulf countries to ensure minimum wages for the housemaids/home nurses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) Yes Sir. Demand of Indian housemaids/home nurses is mostly in gulf countries.

(b) As per data furnished by Indian Missions, the approximate number of Indian women employed as housemaids/home nurses in Gulf countries presently is as under:

Oman	Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	Qatar	Kuwait
31000	9000	15000	10000	72,366

In the UAE, only a moderate number of Indian women are employed as housemaids.

(c) to (e): The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries have presently no law to regulate wages for domestic workers. However, minimum wage for various host countries has been fixed by the Indian Missions and enforced by the Protectors of Emigrants while granting emigration clearance. In order to ensure the protection of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with the UAE and Kuwait. An additional protocol has been signed with Qatar. MoUs with Oman and Malaysia have been finalized.